

REPORT ON THE MERRYBELL FARM SITE 35MU9

A PRIVATE DIG - ON SAUVIE ISLAND IN THE PORTLAND BASIN OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

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June 1970
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EDITED AND COMPILED
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents _____	ii	BONE AND HORN _____	15
LIST OF FIGURES _____	iii	FIRE PITS _____	15
LIST OF TABLES _____	iii	CAMP ROCK _____	15
LIST OF PLATES _____	iii	OBSIDIAN ANALYSIS _____	16
FORWARD _____	iv	HOSUE PIT FEATURES _____	16
PREFACE _____	1	DATING OF MU-9 SITE PROJECTILES _	17
INTRODUCTION _____	2	C-14 Dating _____	18
GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA _____	3	REFERENCES _____	19
DESCRIPTION _____	4	OAS AND MERRYBELL 1958 _____	20
HISTORY _____	4	Marrybelle Dig Soon To End (September 1958) _____	20
EXCAVATION OF THE SITE _____	4	Merrybell Site _____	20
CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM _____	5	OAS AND MERRYBELL 1967 _____	21
PROJECTILE POINT AND/OR KNIVES _	5	The Merrybelle Site (May 1967) _____	21
CLASSIFICATION OF PROJECTILES ____	7	Merrybelle Site Excavations (June 1967) _____	22
RAW MATERIAL SOURCES _____	7	Merrybelle Site (July 1967) _____	22
Raw Material Analysis _____	7	Merrybelle Site (August 1967) _____	23
ARTIFACTS _____	7	Merrybell Site Report (September 1967) _____	23
Side Scrapers _____	8	Carbon 14 Dating of Merrybell (March 1968) _____	24
End Scrapers _____	8	OAS AND MERRYBELL 1971 _____	24
Double End Scrapers _____	8	Merrybell Revisited (1971) _____	24
Flake Knives _____	8	Dig Notes (1971) _____	25
Willow Leaf Knives _____	8	Merrybell -1971 _____	25
Abrasive Sandstone Artifacts _____	8	Famed Center of Indian Culture Revelations of the Merrybell Site _____	25
GROUND STONE – CONCLUSIONS ____	9	Famed Center of Indian Culture The Atlatl _____	25
Mauls _____	9	Richard M. Pettigrew 1973 _____	26
Hammer Stones _____	10	ABOUT RAY HOFFARBER _____	49
Adze Blades _____	10		
Abrasive Stones _____	10		
Pestles _____	11		
Cobble Choppers _____	11		
Net Sinkers _____	11		
Personal Adornment _____	12		
Paint Pots _____	12		
ATLATL WEIGHTS _____	12		
MYSTERY STONE OR END SINKER ON A NET _____	13		

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1 The Merrybell Farm Site 35MU9 _____	2	FIGURE 6 Hoffarber Sketch _____	17
FIGURE 2 The Merrybell Farm Site 35MU9 _____	3	FIGURE 7 1967 O.A.S. dig at the Merrybell Site 35MU9, Location: "Council Oaks" _____	21
FIGURE 3 Drill recovered from square B-10-5' _____	8	FIGURE 8 Cache of Root Digger Handles, Herzog 1965 _____	49
FIGURE 4 Hoffarber Sketch _____	11	FIGURE 9 Decorated Clay Pipe, Powell Site _____	49
FIGURE 5 Found during the 1967 O.A.S. Sanctioned Dig at Merrybell 35MU9 by Ray Burhmaster _____	14		

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1 NO. SPECIMENS BY MATERIAL _____	5	TABLE 5 1971 - 14C DATE _____	25
TABLE 2 PROJECTILE MATERIALS _____	6	TABLE 6 ALL KNOWN 14C DATES _____	26
TABLE 3 MATERIAL CLASSIFICATION _____	7	TABLE 7 SITES REPRESENTED BY THE HOFFARBER COLLECTION _____	50
TABLE 4 1967 - 14C DATE _____	24		

LIST OF PLATES

PLATE 1 Stone Paint Pot Mortars _____	27	PLATE 12 River Cobbles _____	38
PLATE 2 Stone Paint Pot Mortars _____	28	PLATE 13 Cobble Choppers _____	39
PLATE 3 Atlatl Weights _____	29	PLATE 14 Mauls _____	40
PLATE 4 Atlatl Weights _____	30	PLATE 15 Mauls _____	41
PLATE 5 Atlatl Weights _____	31	PLATE 16 Level 1 & 2 Projectiles and Other _____	42
PLATE 6 Atlatl Weights _____	32	PLATE 17 Level 3 Projectiles and Other _____	43
PLATE 7 Atlatl Weights _____	33	PLATE 18 Level 4 Projectiles and Other _____	44
PLATE 8 Atlatl Weights _____	34	PLATE 19 Level 5 Projectiles and Other _____	45
PLATE 9 Miscellaneous Stone _____	35	PLATE 20 Cache of Lithic Material _____	46
PLATE 10 Sinkers _____	36	PLATE 21 Knives _____	47
PLATE 11 Wrapped Sinkers _____	37	PLATE 22 Clay Paint Pot _____	48

FORWARD

In late 2008, I received a handwritten site report for a private dig at the Merrybell Farm Site. This report was written by Ray Hoffarber and was never published nor was it provided to the Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS). Having spent a number of years researching the prehistoric, proto-historic and historic periods of the Columbia River, I had never seen any published accounts pertaining to the various coordinated digs conducted at the Merrybell Farm Site. I realized Mr. Hoffarber's report on this subject may be of some informational value to the professional and general public alike.

I have transcribed Mr. Hoffarber's report exactly as it was written. Readers of this report will notice grammar, punctuation and strike through text just as they appeared in the handwritten version. In some instances, I was unable to determine the exact word written as noted with *[sic]*. In other instances, I've added a word(s) to clarify an obvious omitted word or to provide additional information as noted with an *[italicized word(s)]*.

Merrybell Site Background

With the exception of Dr. Richard Pettigrew's work and few monthly site updates provided in the OAS's newsletter "Screenings", no formal report has been published that can provide specific details related to the various Merrybell Farm Site excavations. Over the years, there have been several coordinated excavations and related activities at the Merrybell Farm site, these included:

1958

OAS - Little was written about the OAS's first visit to the Merrybell Farm Site. The general impression is that the activities were exploratory in nature as noted by references to test trenching and attempts at mapping wall profiles.

1967

OAS - This excavation was conducted under the direction of Chuck Paynter and Derek Cornforth. This was a major project for the OAS with an estimated 450 units identified within the project area. It was reported that at least 150 units were excavated during the 1967 field season. It was noted during the dig that a surprising number of atlatl weights were being recovered.

PSU was invited by OAS to conduct field work at the Merrybell Farm site during the 1967 season. The work performed by PSU was conducted under the direction of Dr. Thomas Newman. At some point during the season and with no reason indicated, Mr. Cornforth was no longer involved with coordinating the dig.

1970

The body of this report relies on the Merrybell Farm Site activities of 1970. This private dig was conducted under the direction of Leon Taber and Ray Hoffarber; presumably with support from George Phebus of the Smithsonian Institution and Dr. Thomas Newman of PSU.

1971

OAS revisits the Merrybelle site.

1973

Dr. Richard Pettigrew identified the Merrybell Farm Site as representing a defining phase when preparing his cultural sequence for the Portland Basin; designating it the type site for the "Merrybell Phase."

In support of Mr. Hoffarber's report, I have included the following supplement information:

Screenings

The Oregon Archaeological Society's newsletter contained numerous references to the Merrybell Farm Site. I have cited several articles and site updates in an effort to supply readers with additional information related to excavation activities at the site. This information relates to the 1958, 1967 and 1971 field seasons.

Photos

Mr. Ken Matsen was an active member Oregon Archaeological Society and served as a photographer on several notable digs. His photography was used to document Oregon Archaeological Society activities at such sites as Merrybell Farm (35MU9), Cholick (35MU1), Lyons (35MU6), Powell, Herzog (45CL11) and Duck Lake (45CL91). I have included many of Mr. Matsen's original 1967 Merrybell Site photos. These photos were intended to support an OAS Merrybell Site report, but this report never materialized and Mr. Matsen had left the society by the mid 1970s.

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PREFACE

This paper was prepared by the author as a site report on the MU-9 site, which is located in Multnomah County, Sauvie Island, which is roughly *[located]* in the center area. It is hoped that this paper will be a useful addition, either independently, or as a[n] addition to the more comprehensive reports being prepared on past O.A.S. sanctioned digs at this site, *[which]* would include the summers of 1967-1971.

The primary motive of the dig was because of the *[sic]* lack of site reports, either by professional or amateur groups, on the lower Columbia River. I believe that this report will give some initiative to others who have fallen behind in their efforts to turnout scientific reports. I do not believe this is possible where amateurs are concerned. Still it is possible to turnout interesting and factual reports.

This is in fact, an accounting of ~~our work~~ a dig project, carried out by five amateur/s/ ~~archaeologists~~. I hope that this manuscript will be interesting primarily to the general public, who may one day examine it; and other students of archaeology.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Whyte, the *[property]* owners, who gave my group permission to excavate [that] portion of the site we were interested in. Certainly I want to express my appreciation to the following individuals who carried out the dig in a cooperative effort, in which *[sic]* was able to make good use of their practical experience.

1. Leon Taber, Sauvie Island OR
2. John Krusso, Hood River OR
3. Don Nelson, Gresham OR
4. Ron Christenson, Vancouver WA
5. C. Burgoyne, Trail OR – Who did not take part personally, but furnished me with the *[sic]* River manuscript by Eugene Helfin.

Others who gave me help, advice and counsel were:

- *[Mr.]* Emory Strong in the area of the artifacts, by way of his excellent photography and use of his home
- Mr. George Phebus, a member of the Board of Directors of the Smithsonian Institution,

for his role in recommending *[sic]* of procedures to be used in the excavation; and for his aid in dating of the site, by examination of the projectile types from the various units and levels.

- Dr. Tom Newman, Portland State University - Anthropology Department, for sanctioning the dig in spite of his personal misgivings from a professional point of view; and his photography of the cross section of an excavated house pit. Unfortunately, the photo at this time has been misplaced. His evaluation of site conditions. His forms *[were]* invaluable in my own references to this prehistoric site; and the loss of prehistoric bone.

Others to who I owe credit are:

- Ralph Mason, Geologist with the Oregon State Department of Geology, for his identification of chipped stone artifacts.
- Ken Matsen for his photography, the use of the Duck Lake Site report manuscript copy; and help on the identification of the miscellaneous artifacts.
- John Woodward, Mt. Hood Community College, for his analysis of chips.
- Mr. Al Worbel, a graduate student at Portland State University, who examined the obsidian chips from the various units and levels to determine there source.
- Leon Taber, for the many questions I asked of him.
- Frank Buehler, who was a source of information on Sauvie Island.
- Ella *[sic]* for her assistance in typing and correcting the report.
- Herb Beals for illustrating the MU-9 site, from a 1942 aerial photograph, which had been taken by the Soil and Conservation Department of Sauvie Island; made available for the site report by Tom Davis of the Soil and Conservation Department.

INTRODUCTION

During early May 1970, an approach was made by Mr. Leon Taber and I to acquire a portion of the site desired, which did not conflict with future plans for any sanctioned digs of the O.A.S. Permission was then granted by the owners to excavate the MU-9 site, in the area desired. This site is generally called by archaeologists the Merrybell Farm Site.

During 1969, Mr. Taber, a Sauvie Island resident and well-known amateur archaeologist for 50-years, and I ran a survey on Sauvie Island sites, under the direction of a representative of the Smithsonian Institution. This site was identified in our survey because it was estimated by Mr. Taber to be a very old site, which was what the representative of the Smithsonian was interested in. Prior knowledge of the site was gained during the 1967 regular sanctioned dig and during 1958 by Leon Taber personally, during the first organized dig at the site.

To gain enough knowledge for a factual report, we felt that the excavation of 50 squares would be necessary to gain enough artifact material to discuss the culture of the prehistoric inhabitants. It was decided that the main portion of the excavation would be of:

[Area] 1. The remains of a house pit, 20 ft in width and of undetermined length; varying from 5 to 6 ft in maximum depth.

[Area] 2. In this area, excavations were not carried out. [Sic] would have included two rows of 5 by 5 ft squares covering a cross section of a house pit estimated at 30 ft in width; and associated side-by-side with the first house pit. The estimated minimum depth was predicted at 5 ft, roughly located in the center of the site and close[ly] associated with McIntire Slough.

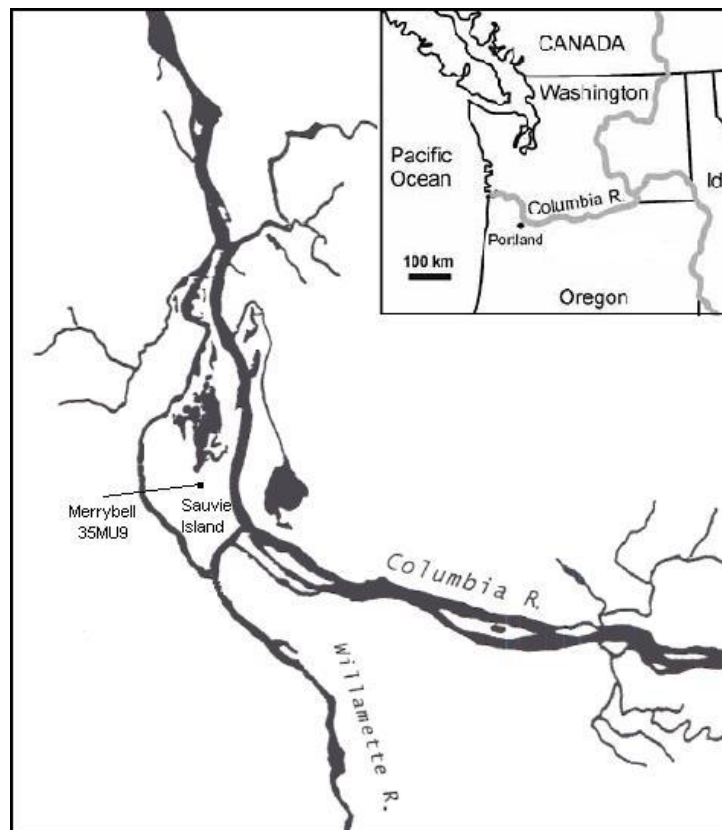


FIGURE 1
Region of Discussion

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Sauvie Island is 16 miles long and five miles wide *[at]* the center. It is basically low and flat with several primary ridges. Open woodland and sloughs abound within this area at one time were many small and large lakes. One of the natural features of the island during the prehistoric period of time was the trees. On the lowlands, willows, cottonwoods, ash and oak *[were]* predominate, with a variety of smaller shrubs; *[in]* addition there were fir, cedar, hemlock, yew, maple, dogwood and wild cherry. The elevation of the ridge is approximately 20 ft.

The elevation of the site would have been selected for obvious reasons by the prehistoric inhabitants for a permanent habitation site. For short periods of time, because of floods, which would have flooded the site every year; fleas, or natural inclinations to move up or down the river seems to have been the only reason for abandonment.

McIntire Slough, which had steep banks before being filled-in by the owners of the site, ran in a northwest direction, past the site before entering the Columbia. This was a natural drain*[age]*, which permitted fresh water to enter Little Sturgeon Lake and other lowland areas. Then it served its purpose as an outlet also.

Even during historic times, this slough during the season when fish were running, contained *[sic]* of shad, quantities of salmon, sturgeon and eels.

Mud Slough flowed in a northwestern direction from the south end of the island on the Multnomah Channel side. This served the same purpose as McIntire Slough... Just beyond the southern end of the site, this slough and McIntire Slough joined.

Wapato was near at hand, camas roots and acorns were abundant to propagate a gathering culture *[sic]* was also more at hand, and they had a favorable climate on the island.

Even though it has been established by early explorers and historians that the Indian's economy evolved around the netting of fish and the gathering of Wapato on Sauvie Island, there is evidence that the site was also used for hunting purposes. Wild game included ducks, geese and swan. Deer were and still are on the island. They may have been sought high ground during floods or they used flooded off *[sic]*.

There were no established elk on the island, but they were in the near vicinity of Scappoose. *[Sic]* within historic times have stated that Oak Ridge was used by the deer on the island, or as a deer run, or they migrated from one area to another.



FIGURE 2
The Merrybell Farm Site 35MU9

DESCRIPTION

In a northern direction within approximately [sic] is the boarder area of Big Sturgeon Lake. In a southern direction another quarter of a mile lays the MU-9 site. Mud Slough served its purpose in prehistoric times as an outlet and inlet for Little Sturgeon Lake. This former mound lies dead-center on a ridge called Oak Ridge, which for approximately 4 miles, on one side, the site lies on the south shore of Little Sturgeon Lake and on the east side by McIntire Slough.

[Note: Little Sturgeon Lake was drained and is now farmed. The southern boundary of the Merrybell Farm site is located approximately 55-60' from the original edge of Little Sturgeon Lake.]

HISTORY

The site chosen for excavation is located on relatively low lying ground. At one time, the site was a mound. Predating 1937, it was subject to flooding before dikes were formed to prevent flooding and further erosion of the Sauvie Island Oregon area.

Noted in the survey of 1969, which included the MU-9 site, was the fact that the site was completely prehistoric. Of interest at the time was the fact that the site contained two more rows of house pits on the ridge.

Within the confined area of the site itself, the estimated extent of the site was 500 ft long [by] 250 ft wide and that it was definitely a hunting site. Its location indicated a fishing site and also a gathering site.

There is only one other site on the island that has the same old looking midden. It was investigated by Leon Taber over forty years ago and remains in a natural state. It is the only site on the island which gives all indications of being another Atlatl Site. *[Note: Possible reference to the Cashdollar Site]*

The well known author and amateur archaeologist Emory Strong in his book, "Stone Age on the Columbia River," stated that there were at least fifteen large village sites on the island. When Lewis and Clark made note in their journal of Sauvie Island and its inhabitants during 1805-1806, no mention was made of the MU-9 site; or

by any other historians because it had been deserted for a long period of time. It is truly a prehistoric site. As far back as 1937, Leon Taber had hunted the surface of the site. Even [sic] amateur archaeologists had hunted the site as far back as fifty years ago. Amateurs such as charter members of O.A.S. Frank Beuhler and George Marshall picked the site over at various times whenever the early occupants worked the ground.

Eventually much of the site from a depth of one to two feet was used to fill the slough in, level it off and put an end to what was at one time, a slough which flooded the entire year. The site is a salvage site. The project name for the type of site excavation is "Salvage Archaeology." There are no more than one or two sites on Sauvie Island or the Columbia River in a natural state of preservation. All have been altered drastically in one form or another.

The recorded history of the site dates back to 1856 during the early occupation of the island by white settlers. It was not a land grant. A man by the name of McIntire owned the farm the longest, from 1876-1943. Ieda Molinam [sp?] sold what was left in the immediate area of the site to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Whyte during 1967 and they had the property. The farm has been used as a dairy farm over the years. As time passed, in more recent years, the site has been used by duck hunting clubs.

The Indians on the island were of the Chinookian linguistic stock formerly, as were most of the Columbia Valley Indians, from the Cascade Range to the sea.

EXCAVATION OF THE SITE

Prior ~~procedures~~ to actual excavation, individual lying out of area number one in to a grid area containing 40 squares, staking and determining a datum point. Since there was little stratification it was determined to keep no wall profiles. It was decided to use a[n] arbitrary, six inch lift throughout the dig. All squares were dug to the sterile clay bottom. All chips were obtained and recorded from [Unit] H-40. All obsidian chips were also recorded from various units and levels throughout the grid area.

The sub-stratum was profiled and this included. Its fire pits and associated artifacts. Also included were the house pit walls. However, it was

determined that this could be done in a more practical manner by photography.

The method employed during the dig was to start from the north end of the controlled section of the controlled dig of 1967 had reserved a portion of the site for 30 ft in the opposite direction. *[a likely reference to the section reversed by OAS for Dr. Tom Newman of Portland State]* The first two rows of the squares from the working area were removed to expose the sub-stratum from a section of the house pit for photography purposes. Then the method employed was to back fill as we worked in a northern direction, removing each row of squares 25 ft in width, before proceeding on to the next row.

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Nearly all artifacts were chipped stone. The classification of projectile points and/or knives was carried out by a method recently employed by the Oregon Archeological Society during the 1967 O.A.S. sanctioned dig. Originally, this classification system was used by the California Archeological Society and was recommended to the O.A.S. by Dr. Tom Newman of Portland State University. As a result of consultations with O.A.S. member Derek Cornforth, prior to the 1967 dig.

The classification of fragments was disregarded because of the fact that complete specimens were prolific in the site and there was not a great deal to be gained by classifying them. The number of specimens by material other than chipped stone is as follows:

TABLE 1- NO. SPECIMENS BY MATERIAL

<u>Bone and Horn</u>	0
<u>Game and Fish Bones</u>	0
<u>Trade Goods</u>	0
<u>Clay Artifacts</u>	0
<u>Vegetable Materials</u>	
Charred Wapato	3
Acorns	7
	Total: 10
<u>Ground Stone</u>	
Mauls	6
Atlatl Weights	4
Adze Blades	5
Perforated Sinkers	1
<u>Metates</u>	0
Abrasive Stone	1

Abrasive Pumice	3
Sandstone Needle Sharpener	1
<u>Bowls and Mortars</u>	0
Paint Pots	3
Pestles	4

Total: 28

<u>Chipped Stone</u>	
Projectile Points	245
Knives (irregular forms)	10
Scrapers	131
Cobble Choppers	12
Drills	22

Total: 420

<u>Sinkers</u>	
Banded Net Sinkers with hole	2
Banded Net Sinker	1
Notched Sinker	1

Total: 4

<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Stone Artifact with (hole)	1
Charred Cedar Fragments	[sic]
Graphite	3
[sic] Shaft Straightners	1
Fleshing Stone	1
Hammer Stones	3
Grinding Stone	1

Total: 10

PROJECTILE POINT AND/OR KNIVES

One of the surprising discoveries discovered as a result of the excavation of 31 relatively undisturbed squares in the grid area, which contained 40 squares was the even distribution of arrow points *[atlatl darts]* from levels 2, 3, 4 and 5. Level 1 had previously been disturbed by farming, taken away for fill and surface hunted extensively at one time, which explained the absence of more points, certainly the overburden or top soil, which ranged from 6 inches at the southern end of the grid to 15 inches at the northern end of the working area had to be taken into account. Fire pits were not as prolific, simply because of the fact that the midden did not always reach to that depth. And because projectiles were very seldom found in the fire pits. Basically the points found were contracting stemmed points. Most of the projectiles are in the category of long, medium-to-large in size.

Level 2 seemed to produce projectiles, which indicated traits of better craftsmanship. There were no caches of projectile found. And there were no indications of projectiles of the same material that would indicate the preference of an

individual or of an individual's type of craftsmanship.

There was a tendency from the 3 ft level on down for most of the darts to be thicker, longer and heavier. Often the longer points are mistaken for projectiles, while in reality they may have served their purpose as knives. What I refer to similarly is the large projectile with a pronounced contracting stem. The stems of these projectiles are usually quite short in comparison to the overall length of the artifact. The contracting stem is very distinctive. The shoulders are usually prominent and a few re-sharpened to a less prominent to an actual rounded shoulder, with the stem often tapering nearly to a point.

[The] Columbia River gem points we found to be rare. Craftsmanship in general was found to be only average. A very small number found, of the small arrow points, [they] resembled those from more recent Columbia River sites.

Side notched arrowheads, which were a very late period development, were nonexistent.

Calapooya points, which showed-up, were found in the 3rd, 4th and 5th levels and totaled less than six in number. The distinctive Calapooya projectiles were obsidian and basalt and probably come to the island by means of trade through the Willamette Valley. Since there are sites on the island where Calapooya have been found, it would not seem improbable that there may have been sites which were used temporarily, upon the occasion when they [Calapooya Indians] visited the island.

From the total of 18, 5 ft by 5 ft squares, which I personally excavated and classified, I submit the following list of projectile materials from the various units and levels. These were identified by geologist R. Mason (1970):

TABLE 2
PROJECTILE MATERIALS

Projectile Materials by Level

<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Level 4</u>	<u>Level 5</u>	<u>Level 6</u>
8 Agate	1 Opal	24 Agate and Jasper	25 Agate	17 Agate	6 Agate
4 Chert 2 Chalcedony	24 Agate 6 Chalcedony 1 Jasper	5 Chert 1 Obsidian 1 Petrified Wood	4 Chalcedony 1 Jasper	4 Chert 1 Basalt	5 Chalcedony
Total: 14	Total: 32	Total: 31	Total: 30	Total: 22	Total: 11

Projectile Materials – Totals

<u>Agate</u>	<u>Chalcedony</u>	<u>Chert</u>	<u>Jasper</u>	<u>Opal</u>	<u>Obsidian</u>	<u>Pet. Wood</u>	<u>Basalt</u>
104	17	13	2	1	1	1	1

Total: 140 Projectiles

CLASSIFICATION OF PROJECTILES

In the field, in addition to separating projectiles in to the basic forms (9), the system relates size, material, length, width ratio and Craftsmanship in an effort to better picture the skill and range intended by the maker. It is also better that this classification system may present a more accurate comparison between projectiles of several sites or areas. This system we found to be practical in regards to the site.

In one area we found that we were piling-up statistics that were rather time consuming and limited in value. We did complete the classifying in the prescribed manner. For example, in classifying the projectiles such as one projectile out of one level would be SN-1-2, which would mean type of projectile, length and broadness of the artifact. The change I would make in this regard would be for example SN-small, medium or large, whichever category the projectile would fit in to.

Common sense would dictate in what category the artifact belonged. Tabulation of projectile forms from the (MU-9) site indicates that the greater percentage are forms in the "C" (Contracting) and "S" (Square), with the "P" (Pointed) a respectable third. The other types were distributed among the remaining forms.

During 1968, when I participated in the O.A.S. dig at the [Cholick] CO9 site located on Sauvie Island, near the Willamette Channel, I observed bird points throughout the excavation area to about the 3rd level, minus the side notched type. There was one layer of flood silt, from level 5 and 6. I recovered several projectiles, which resemble those from throughout the dig at the MU9 site. Rather than report this as a fact, it would be necessary for a more extensive dig project at the CO9 site in the habitation or house pit section of the site before any conclusive results or similarities between the two sites could be determined.

RAW MATERIAL SOURCES

There were many sources of raw material, not only in the Dalles- Deschutes region, but on the lower Columbia River and along many of the tributary streams. Obsidian may have come by way of the Willamette Valley and the Three

Sisters area in Central Oregon or Washington [State]. This description would include basalt.

Raw Material Analysis

One container of chips was retained from square H-40. Level 1 was mostly mixed midden and silt. All chips were retained from the five following levels and submitted to John Woodward, Mt. Hood Community College, who broke them down as follows:

TABLE 3 - MATERIAL CLASSIFICATION

Square H-40 – Lithic Debatage

1 Steatite = 0.4%
1 Basalt = 0.4%
225 Chalcedony = 99.1%
Total: 99.9%

The 225 Chalcedony chips can be divided into the following types:

Square H-40 – Chalcedony Classification

22 Agate = 9.8%
104 Jasper = 46.2%
39 Flint = 17.3%
Petrified Wood = 26.7%
Total: 100%

Jasper and petrified wood make up over 70% of the total.

ARTIFACTS

From the dig project, 22 drills or perforators were recorded. Most were small worked on all edges, with some showing a lack of craftsmanship on all surfaces. Three of the drills appeared to have been used two ways, as drills and as scrapers. One indicated it may have been used also as a projectile.

Ten of them were agate and 5 were of chalcedony. They were found in all levels and are common in the Columbia Plateau area. There were three drills found that are interesting because they are not types common in the Sauvie Island sites. From A-1-5, two drills were found similar to a photo of a specimen for that type shown in the January 1971 Screenings by Don Rose. That specimen was found by Mr. Howard

Wetherbee of Arlington Oregon just below the old Arlington Ferry landing (Oregon side). In photo 3, in the same Screenings, a drill specimen is shown which is of the multipurpose type. It was found by Mr. Wetherbee at Roosevelt Beach, Washington. I found a drill that was nearly identical from the MU-9 site during 1970. The drill was 3 3/8 inches long and of yellow jasper. This drill was recovered from square B-10-5'.



FIGURE 3
Drill recovered from square B-10-5'

Side Scrapers

From the assemblage of scrapers from the various units and levels, I compiled a total of 71. There were 29 side scrapers or those which are worked or chipped on one edge. Also there were 10 side scrapers of the type worked on both edges.

End Scrapers

These types are commonly called snub-nosed or thumbnail. I recovered 29 of these from the 18 squares I excavated. In regards, to these types, I refer the person reading this report to the Duck Lake Site Report compiled by O.A.S. members Bob Slocum and Ken Matsen. (1968)

Double End Scrapers

This type is very scarce. It is called a combination scraper and was simply flaked and worked at both ends. It could be called for all practical purposes a "freak."

Flake Knives

Most of these types were of clear agate with the flaking having been done from a single side; along one edge of the flake. Several of these were found broken or merely [as] fragments.

Willow Leaf Knives

Basically, the most prominent type of knife recovered is the Willow Leaf at the MU-9 site. Actual recover from the 31 relatively undisturbed squares produced only one of particular interest. Willow Leafs recovered (fragment and complete) are basically chalcedony, obsidian, chert and jasper. These types conform to those found in the Columbia Plateau. This type of artifact was found throughout all levels of the site, with some variation in length and may or may not have been hafted.

Abrasive Sandstone Artifacts ([Unit] C-14-4')

This artifact was the only artifact of sandstone recovered and is in my estimation very rare for this prehistoric site. In the more recently occupied sites in the Sauvie Island area, this type of artifact is much more common, but they are often not recognized as many of them show little or no usage.

Sandstone is a sedimentary rock consisting of sand grains cemented together by silica or lime. A nearby source would have been the Astoria formation on the lower Columbia. More distant sources may have been as far as Idaho or Canada. Mr. Mason maintains that the manner in which it could have arrived at the MU-9 site would have been either by (1) trade, which seems rather unlikely or (2) flooding which deposited the trunks of trees along the beaches of the lower Columbia River. Sandstone slabs often are found with deep grooves worn in them from making wedges, the groove being the same width as the wedge.

GROUND STONE – CONCLUSIONS

The absence of certain articles of ground stone left several questions open for speculation. Fishing implements of stone were not found to be plentiful. I recorded a perforated sinker from the site during the O.A.S. sanctioned dig during 1967. I felt at the time that since I found it in a 2 ft level, that it had been carried in during the historic settlement of the site; since the level indicated a disturbed area at that time and throughout the area in general. The 1970 excavations, another perforated sinker was recovered from a 4 ft level, a completely undisturbed level of midden.

This raised a question as to why there was such an absence of perforated sinkers when it was apparent that the former prehistoric inhabitants had knowledge of their use? Usually perforated sinkers in the lower Sauvie Island area are more closely associated with an area of faster moving water such as the Columbia River, Willamette Channel or Lake River, which is actually a slough with an incoming and outgoing tide, which always fluctuates. This would include the other different variations and types of net sinkers on the lower Columbia River. The size and location of McIntire Slough indicates that it was very narrow, steep banked and that the inflowing and out flowing tide would have been at a more moderate pace.

On the island during the late prehistoric period and before the white man came, the larger fish such as salmon and sturgeon were taken in nets made of fiber from white cedar bark or such other fiber as nature produced. It was not necessary for the Indians to drift. (Spencer, 1950) Since the culture is so similar in many ways, such as the similarity of the Long Narrows, Dalles area as represented by the atlatl weight, cobble chopper, projectiles and other types of artifacts, the apparent movement from the Dalles to the island suggests the possible use of the dip net, rather than the use of perforated sinkers, to implement the fishing economy.

During my observation of the O.A.S. dig at this site during 1967, I never observed a large bowl and nothing larger than a small mortar. During 1970, the recovery of 4 small paint pots confirmed my belief that at this period of time, the large bowl may have not been developed, at that time, as the occupants were certainly going

through different stages of progression in their craftsmanship. One of the major surprises to me at the site was the absence of hammer stones. During a previous dig on the E.L.B. site at Felida Washington, on Lake River, hammer stones were found in quantity, at that moderately old site. There was an obvious absence of hammer stones at the MU-9 site throughout all levels. However, there was no absence of elongated river pebbles. This seems to indicate the occupants were using horns almost exclusively for chipping stone during the chronological periods of time *[when]* the site was occupied.

[Note: E.L.B. Site – A possible reference to the exploratory dig at Felida Moorage-45CL12 conducted in 1952]

Mauls

Basically the mauls found were granite, quartzite and one of basalt. The maul, which is most representative of the MU-9 type, is very similar to the maul photo in Emory Strong's, "Stone Age on the Columbia River" page 170. The maul in the photo on the left is from the Maybe Site on the Long Narrows, near the Dalles and is very typical of the MU-9 site type, which protrude slightly above the butt end. None of the mauls at the MU-9 site recovered had any type of carved handle.

1. *[Unit] A-1-3'* Basalt, polished, short, stubby with nothing protruding above the butt end. There are indications of usage on both ends. Recovered from the same stratum were 1 cobble chopper, 1 scraper, 2 contracting projectiles, 1 knife and 1 square type projectile.
2. *[Unit] B-10-3'* Granite, sloping base, showing heavy usage and some sue at the top. If was found as a cache associated with 2 elongated pestles. 1 atlatl weight was found at the same level, all were 32" below the surface and not disturbed. Other artifacts were 1 projectile classified as a square type.
3. *[Unit] B-10-4'* Granite, protruding butt, broken, there were 4 different types of classifiable projectiles recovered and one fleshing stone from the same level.

4. [Unit] C-15-4' Flaring top with no protruding bottom, average size.
5. [Unit] G-34-4' Broken (nipple top) also from the same stratum [were] 1 hammer stone, 1 pestle, 2 scrapers, 1 pointed projectile and 1 contracting [projectile].
6. [Unit] H-39-5' Broken, rounded type, protruding base, granite. Found along the inside of a circular fire pit. From the [same] stratum were 1 scraper and 3 contracting projectiles.
7. [Unit] H-37-5' Nipple top, broken butt, quartzite stone.

Hammer Stones

This site produced only 3 hammer stones from all units and levels.

1. [Unit] A-3-2' Basalt, elongated in form, showing usage at both ends.
2. [Unit] E-14-4' Basalt, showing usage on one end only.
3. [Unit] G-34-4' Spherical, flattened, conglomerate, showing usage only on one end.

Adze Blades

Most Sauvie Island adze blade and in the lower Columbia River area are usually no more than 1 to 3 inches in length. MU-9 adze blades are no exception. The most prominent type is Jadeite. However, serpentine, nephrite, basalt and other stone have been found. The ends of these blades from the site are of two types. Some have a strong cutting edge in the manner of the majority of British Columbia adze blades. However, Sauvie Island [adze] blades often have a curved cutting edge. The majority that I have seen from the site has the curved cutting edge and most are no more than 1 to 3 inches in length.

These pre-contact Indians fell their trees and worked their wood with this type of [adze] blade.

They were used in wooden or bone handles. Only the very small [adze] blades were used by hand. Most adze blades from the site show heavy usage and are often broken. Only a small percentage was completely intact, with a high polish. I have never seen one from the site with a hole for a suspension cord, which has on occasion been found in the more recent sites. The sources of material are found along the Frazer River in British Columbia and the Rogue River in Southern Oregon. Along the Columbia, they were the Indians one indispensable tool. (Strong, 1960)

1. [Unit] B-7-3' Short, white jade, associated with red ash. Also recovered from the same stratum were 1 sinker and 1 square type projectile.
2. [Unit] C-14-2' Dark green jade, nicely beveled, complete and not in a disturbed area. Charred cedar fragments noted, indicating possible remnants of wall remains. From the same stratum there were 2 scrapers, classifiable projectiles were 3 pointed and 2 contracting.
3. [Unit] C-15-6' Short, stubby, broken, nephrite jade. The same stratum produced 1 cobble chopper and 1 square type projectile.
4. [Unit] F-29-4 Broken, serpentine, 1 scraper, the projectiles were 2 square, 1 basal notched and 1 contracting.
5. [Unit] H-37-5' Broken ~~jade~~ adze, short. From the same stratum there were 2 scrapers, 2 contracting projectiles, 1 corner notched, 1 square, 1 half point and 1 Calapooya. The material was of polished serpentine.

Abrasive Stones

1. [Unit] C-14-3' Broken, pumice, 2 narrow grooves.
2. [Unit] B-8-4' Pumice needle sharpener.
3. [Unit] B-8-5' Pumice shaft smoother.

Pestles

1. [Unit] A-4-4' Length 7 ¼" showing signs of usage on one end and has the appearance of a natural shaped stone.
2. [Unit] B-10-3' Associated closely with a hand maul and an atlatl [weight], which came from the same stratum. Pestles were of the elongated basalt type showing use on one end.
3. [Unit] G-34-4' Elongated basalt, used on one end and recovered beside a fire pit; along with a broken ~~and~~ reused maul from the top for the fire pit.

Cobble Choppers

Generally speaking, most archaeologists refer to their use as a general purpose tool. Certainly they would have served a useful purpose for shredding of salmon; as has been noted in the Dalles-Deschutes Region. They have also been called in professional site reports such names as "Throwing Stones" and "Discoidal Scrapers." They are made from a piece of river gravel; percussion flaked generally all the way around, but sometimes only partway. They vary in size from one inch in diameter up to five inches. Most are about two or two and a half. (Strong, 1960)

To my knowledge, the MU-9 site is the only site on Sauvie Island where they have been found and possibly the only site below the Cascades where they have any numbers. I have found such choppers at Seaside Oregon in a mound where there were stratified layers of mussel shells.

There may be other sites in the Willamette Valley where they have been found. The only difference I have noted is not in the form or size, but in the type of river gravel used.

Total cobble choppers recovered consisted of 12 in number at the MU-9 site during the 1970 private dig. They were distributed in an even manner from all six levels with the exception of level one where there was only one and level three, which produced three.

Net Sinkers

1. [Unit] A-3-3' Banded with notch
2. [Unit] A-2-4' Two notched sinker, oblong in shape, narrow at the center, yellow appearing with a faint band around the center, where two notches had been percussion flaked. The outer edges indicated no usage. It is three inches in length and 1 ½ inches in width.

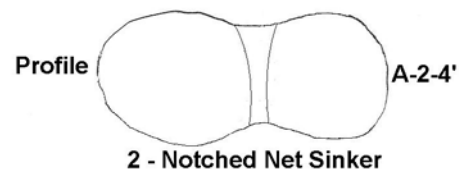


FIGURE 4
Hoffarber Sketch

3. [Unit] B-7-2' Found in a disturbed level, it was smaller than the average of that type with one band around the center.
4. [Unit] A-5-4' Basalt river cobble, 42" inches below the surface; perforated at one end with a ground band around [the] center, with [a] notch. Estimated 2 pounds in weight. This stratum also produced 1 willow leaf knife, 1 scraper and classifiable projectiles of 2 pointed, 1 contracting and 1 square type.
5. E-23-3' Found in a disturbed level, it shows a black imprint around the length and the middle, and is 1/8" inches thick. It is a brown river pebble showing little sign of having been in a fire. It definitely appears to have been wrapped with some type of fiber. Further reference is given in Screenings, Volume 17, No. 6 June 1968 Ken Matsen.

Personal Adornment

Most of the beads I have found in the past from Sauvie Island sites and surrounding lower Columbia River are of two types. Either they are of pumice plain or carved with a ground hole; or they are of bone either plain or carved. Stone beads are rare and in only one Sauvie Island site, CO-9 Cholic, have I noted any clay beads of the type from the Long Narrows area of the Columbia River. Personal adornment from the MU-9 site was practically nonexistent as there were no bone beads and only two pumice bangles.

1. [Unit] B-10-2' Plain
2. [Unit] H-36-2' Plain

Paint Pots

1. [Unit] B-7-4' Stone pot, carved turtle type [effigy], but not elaborately carved. It was found inverted and from the same stratum, 3 scrapers were recovered, one combination scraper, and one drill.
2. [Unit] C-14-5' When found, it was very porous and heavy. It is pumice, 3 inches wide and 2 inches tall, carved around the top in a zigzag design. It has a flat bottom. It was in an upright position and 54" below the crest. From the same stratum, one cobble chopper was recovered and one "S" type projectile. The pot was closely associated with a fire pit. The source of the pumice may have come down the Lewis River [in] Washington where pumice would have been available in the Mt. St. Helens area, which is an ancient volcano. Another possible source of pumice may have been Mt. Adams or from Newberry Crater, near Bend Oregon.
3. D-19-4' Found in an abandoned section of the house pit on the top of a fire pit, 46" inches below the crest. It was found inverted and closely associated with round cooking stones. The small stone pot is not carved. It is partially broken on one edge. From the same stratum, 1 white (calcined bone) fragment was found, 3 scrapers and 2 contracting projectiles.

ATLATL WEIGHTS

The most "unique" artifacts recovered were the atlatl weights. The large number of these recovered from the site, over the years as far back as 1958 and even prior to that, represents the largest assemblage from one site below the Dalles region, ~~and the various sites on the Long Narrows~~. The craftsmanship does not compare with the atlatl weights from the Dalles. The atlatl weights from that area in general are of a better quality. Most of them are highly polished and more elaborate. It is of course difficult to compare atlatl weights from the Long Narrows, where they were recovered from sites where there was habitation sites on top of burials and where they were not recovered in a controlled or scientific manner; from the crest of the site to the hard pan.

In three ways they are similar. The sizes are approximately the same; they all appear to have been used in a similar fashion and for the same purpose. The atlatl weights recovered during the 1970 and the classified atlatl weights from my own collection during the 1967 O.A.S. sanctioned dig compiled a total of eight in number. From my own observations of these specimens, I arrived at the following conclusions.

There distribution in the site is found exclusively from the 2 ft level through level 5. The [atlatl] weights from the lower levels are not as elaborate or as developed as the [atlatl] weights from the upper levels; showing a definite lack of craftsmanship in general.

Potentially, any medium to large contracting atlatl dart point or smaller type could have been used to fell large game such as deer with the aid of a throwing stick and the weight. It is not surprising that more than one atlatl weight at a time is found at the MU-9 site, from one level; as they have often been found in pairs from sites in The Dalles Region ~~or sites along the Long Narrows~~. Certainly they were prized possessions. It is much more surprising to find atlatl weights from more than one level, out of own square, but during ~~the summer of~~ the MU-9 private dig a square of this type was excavated.

One of the best references to atlatl weights is given by Emory Strong in his book, "Stone Age on the Columbia River," and the use of the atlatl weights is confirmed by his report of "The

McClure Atlatl" in Screenings, May 1966.

1. [Unit] A-4-2' Found exactly 2ft below the crest. From the same stratum were 2 contracting projectiles. It was not from a disturbed level. The stone is a very hard basalt, highly polished ~~and natural in appearance.~~
2. [Unit] B-10-5' This atlatl weight is made out of volcanic lava. It was 32" below the crest, associated closely with a cache of stone implements consisting of a maul and two pestles. From the same stratum, one scraper was recovered and one square type projectile. There was also camp rock noted and an ashy, black midden.
3. [Unit] B-10-5' Granite, about 2 inches long, slightly concave across the center of the weight, hard compressed of quartz and mica. Recovery was 52" inches from the crest. From the same stratum an atlatl weight [see item 4] with the form of a walnut was found, also 5 scrapers and 2 stone drills. One of the drills is a multipurpose chert drill. Projectiles were one contracting and one basal notch.
4. [Unit] B-10-5' It is a coarse grained basalt. It is an unusual type for an atlatl weight and could easily be mistaken for a Bolo Stone. It has a slight concave base, which is typical of the weights. There is a groove extending around the entire length of the weight. The form and size of the weight is very similar to that of a walnut. It was found 50" inches below the crest.
5. The distribution of the B-10-5' atlatl weight is certainly an early for of weight, similar or [a] near duplicate was found during 1967 from the 5ft level. The only difference was that the 1967 atlatl weight had a flattened end where it had been set in place, in this since, it was unique. A check of the 29 atlatl weights from the 1971 O.A.S. sanctioned dig has revealed no more of these coarse grained basalt atlatl weights. If the future O.A.S report on the 1967 dig reveals more of those type of atlatl weight from the same level,

that would indicate a preference of stone during the period when the weights were first being used by the inhabitants.

MYSTERY STONE OR END SINKER ON A NET

[Unit] B-8-3' It is of a hard grained stone with vertical sides and a flat bottom, approximately 2 pounds in weight and what appears to be a stone arch or handle. Through the center of the projection there is a hole, which has been pecked out and polished. From the same stratum, projectile points [were] recovered and included on C or corner-notched, one S or square type, one scraper and one drill.

This stone with a handle, which is considered to be rare, was found in an up-right position. These strange stone artifacts with the pecked out holes appear to be confined to the lower Columbia River, particularly Sauvie Island and adjacent sites. I have observed most of the large collections picked-up by surface hunters or excavated by amateurs in the area of The Dalles and Long Narrows where sites were numerous. Nearly all of these sites were excavated by amateurs and not in a controlled manner, as they started to recover archaeological material threatened by the Dalles Dam, which has flooded the original channel in the region. I have never observed a single specimen of this type of artifact. I have previously described or even on similar in form, in that region. The former editor of O.A.S Screenings, Emory Strong, on January 13, 1958 reported on two of these strange stone artifacts.

1. Found by George Marshall in site CO7 site [Pump House site], made of fine grained, hard stone, pecked out and polished. The hole through the top projection is perfectly round, one quarter inch in diameter. It is obviously not a sinker as the hole is too small for a tie and the material is not strong enough to withstand the rough usage.
2. Found by Buell Ditlevesen, a former game warden near Ridgefield Washington and Lake River, where it had washed out. The hole is straight through. It is however, flared out on each side.

The only reasonable guess (not mine, [Mr.] Given) for the use of these stones was that they may have been used to form and polish rawhide strings, which were passed through the hole and sawed back and forth. At that time (1958), they were the only two artifacts of that type that Mr. Strong knew of. Since then, four more have been found.

The following is a list of the known artifacts of this type that I have knowledge of:

1. Found by George Marshall in site CO7 [Pump House site] from a house pit at a depth of 4 ft. It was associated with the center section of a rectangular house pit floor. No other artifacts were associated with it.
2. Found by Buell Ditlevesen as a result of surface hunting on the shore of Lake River Washington, near Ridgefield.
3. Carl Brier recovered one from the Decker site CO2 near Scappoose. It came from one of the lower level of that site, which had a maximum depth of approximately 6 ft.

4. The late Robert H. Miller recovered one, which is now in the collection of Frank Buehler. As near as I have been able to determine, it came from the MU17 site

[Woodlawn site], which was located near Union Avenue and the Columbia River Slough. There is a photo of this artifact in Indian Relics of the Pacific Northwest. (N. G. Seamen, 1946).

5. During the summer of the 1970 [Note: actually 1967] O.A.S. sanctioned dig at the MU-9 site, Ray Buhrmaster recovered one with the normal projection [and] with the typical pecked hole. It is unique on the opposite site as it is shaped like a symmetrical mortar and is formed in a concaved manner. It was recovered from the 6 ft level.
6. [Unit] B-8-3' Leon Taber found one, which has the same form as George Marshall's.

Four of the six artifacts, which come from digs, were found from the lower levels of the various sites. They are not found in caches and as Emory strong said, "Rare." Archaeologists disagree on there use as there has been no definite proof to date as to there purpose. They are definitely prehistoric, prized possessions.



FIGURE 5
Found during the 1967 O.A.S. Sanctioned Dig at Merrybell 35MU9 by Ray Burhmaster

BONE AND HORN

Dr. Tom Newman [of] Portland State University, upon my request and in some detail, submitted the following explanation for [the] lack of horn and bone:

In several areas of Oregon, including much of Western Oregon, there are site conditions and persistent ground water characteristics which are not compatible with preservation of certain materials.

The specific material to which he refers is bone or skeletal elements of the two main constituents of bone, the usable and ridged is the mineral content mainly calcium. The other portion he maintains is a fibrous network which is really attached by agents of decay.

In brief...

The mineral portion of skeletal elements of all mammals is that which the archaeologist ordinarily recovers and works with. The archaeologist may recover these skeletal elements if they are not damaged or destroyed by mechanical transport, scavengers, crushing, cooking, chemical action or other means. It is the chemical action of ground water and soil acidity which is most damaging to bone in much of Western Oregon.

Here we have sites with an acidic PH which destroys the calcium content of bones. As a consequence, although no time schedule can be fixed with certainty, after a few decades to a few centuries there are no supportable or recoverable skeletal elements which the archaeologist may recover. A combination of soil constituents, rainfall pattern and ground cover is responsible for this general condition and it varies only because of local conditions and neutralization.

The main evidence of this is to be found in [an] absence of bone or just as often, bone which is wet and looks structurally sound, but which crumbles when touched, drying or exposure. Sometimes the remnants look much like a dirty meal or flour. The survival of bone in Western Oregon may not be expected unless there is no great age involved or local conditions do not permit the destruction by water and soil acidity.

Note

The bone recovered included perhaps six fragmented and calcined bird, fish or animal bones during the 1970 dig at the MU-9 site. We did find a substantial amount of bone from the surface to a 2 ft depth. However, it was determined that these were sawed bones from the historic period of the site and that they were not prehistoric.

FIRE PITTS

These permanent features in the substratum of level 1 were nonexistent, but at the bottom of level 2 several fire pits were exposed, none of which were unusual or unexpected. They were simply circular and lined with oblong and oval shaped cobbles.

Level 3 had few features of the type. Either the midden was very sterile, particularly throughout the center of the house pit sections, or along the house pit walls the camp rock was very dense and fire cracked rock was often common throughout the level.

Level 4 and 5 in rows A, B and C changed from fire cracked stones to the more oval and oblong type. Red ash to a moderate degree was found in the levels of greatest depth, but often the fire pits were difficult to define.

At level 6 they were much easier to define. The fire cracked stones encircled the black ashy pits in the subsoil with the exception of rows A, B and C where they were more oval and oblong.

CAMP ROCK

Basically found were the fire cracked basalt river cobbles with exception of units A, B and C where from level 4 through level 6. They appeared to be more elongated, oval and complete in form [and] of various dimensions, which were circular, ~~full of midden, broken~~ camp rock and few artifacts of chipped stone.

OBSIDIAN ANALYSIS

All sampled of obsidian chips from various units and levels were retained for Albert Worbel, an undergraduate student at Portland State University. Mr. Worbel gave me the results of his analysis as follows:

In regards to the volcanic rock fragments that you sent from the Merrybell site on Sauvie Island, 27 were obsidian of which I was able to analyze 23. The technique used to analyze the obsidian fragments entailed nuclear activation of the rock fragments and subsequent counting of specific nuclide gamma-ray intensities. The intensity patterns of the fragments were then compared with intensity patterns from petrographic obsidian sources. These sources include the Glass Buttes area, the Burns area, the Tucker Hill Area and Medicine Lake Highlands in Northern California. The comparable analysis indicates that 19 of the 23 fragments are from the North Sisters area. Sources for the remaining 4 were not identifiable. The devitrified nature of the obsidian fragments indicates that they came from river gravel, most probably from the Mackenzie River area.

This he maintains tends to suggest an active "North-South, Pre-European Trade Route in the Willamette Valley

HOSUE PIT FEATURES

The dig revealed three features primarily in regards to house pits within the grid area of 40 squares. The first method employed to determine the validity of the observations made by Mr. Leon Taber and I during 1967 and by Mr. Taber during 1958 was to remove row A and B by the use of wheelbarrows from the house pit area. Upon the completion of this task, a clay wall was exposed on the west side of the grid area, beginning at the point of square B-6. The wall was no more than 2 ft below the crest, the bottom of the wall was approximately at a 5 ft depth.

Various fire pits were examined as they extended along the wall and towards the high center floor or center section. Several of the pits in A-1 and B-6 were covered with pit-silt. This may have represented flood silts that were not removed if the house pit was reused.

It could also have been a means to locate the pits at some later interval. The high center floor itself was exactly seven and one half ft in width. Flint scrapers were numerous, but there were no pits.

On the east side of the A and B rows of the house pit, the excavations only extended to the bottom of the clay wall, which revealed fire pits of various dimensions. Also recovered from A-5 and B-10 were several small pieces of charcoal, which may have been fragments of cedar wood, from the 3 ft levels and lower depths.

As the dig was extended from row B through row C and partially row D, the clay wall ridge on the west side was a feature that did not change. On the east side the appearance of what appears to be a sloping bottom of a clay wall continued through part of row D. At a distance of 18 ft from the grid at the south end, a clay ridge was found which marked the end of the section of the house pit. In other words, the dig was extended three ft in to row D before the clay ridge was discovered, that extended across the grid area. This ridge did not reveal any plank lines or definite post holes. Square A-1 did not reveal the clay ridge on the west side of the house pit. This may have been a side entrance. Neither clay wall on the west side or the east side revealed any definite evidence of post holes or plank lines.

All evidence of circular fire pits were found along the clay walls, within the various units and levels, which were composed of rows A through portions of row D. The elongated and oval shaped fired and unfired cooking stones, which were not broken, followed the same pattern from levels 4 through level 6, with the exception of broken cooking stones found in the fire pits.

All prized possessions of stone implements of these prehistoric inhabitants, were found near the clay walls from various levels. This would include all paint pots, atlatl weights, celts [*adze blades*], mauls and pestles. The only exceptions were the recoveries of scrapers, drills and projectiles from the center area of the house pit throughout various levels. Artifacts of chipped stone of the type are common in sites on the lower Columbia River.

The clay ridge, which appeared first in row D and then primarily in row E and F, did signify the end of a section of a house pit.

In row D, where the clay ridge first appeared, it was no more than 1 ft below the disturbed crest, on the west side, where D-16 was left intact. Within the confines of units E and F was the most disturbed area. There were 6 squares excavated which were disturbed by farming, previously screened midden or from the historic period; all the way to the subsoil.

The separation of house pits, as represented by the clay ridge, was not a totally unexpected development. From row D, extended from west to east, the clay ridge had only a 1 ft depth. As more of the clay wall was exposed, working towards the east side, it was noted that the ridge dropped off sharply on the east side to a depth of 5 ft. There appeared to be no logical reason for this development. There were remnants of fire pits in the disturbed and undisturbed subsoil of the clay ridge. These pits were entirely absent on the clay ridge on the west side, as they appeared to be at the bottom portions of the clay wall on the east side.

The last two rows were disturbed by farming and from the historic occupation of the site throughout levels 1 and 2 of rows G and H. All other levels were completely undisturbed and both rows extended to the 5th and 6th levels. There were indications of house pit walls on either the west side or the east side. Fire pits were evenly distributed throughout these two rows and included the center section. Fired, unfired, broken and occasionally cooking stones were found from the undisturbed levels of the two units to the subsoil. Most of the pits indicated broken cooking stones. Both units indicated a section of abandoned house pit. Nearly all artifacts were projectiles, a few drills and scrapers. There were indications of red ash from the 4 ft level to the subsoil, near the circular fire pits.

The east side of rows G and H were closely watched for indications of wall areas. The same procedures were used on the west side of G and H. Only the recovery of broken stone implements, such as a celt [*adze blades*], two broken mauls and a broken paint pot [*were found*]. From levels 4 to the subsoil, in the areas where the wall should have been, indicated the possibility of a previous house pit structure. The total absence of the more prized possessions of the inhabitants, such as atlatl weights, complete paint pots and celts [*adze blades*], indicated that

For some reason this section of the house pit had been abandoned and very little of value was left behind.

DATING OF MU-9 SITE PROJECTILES

Early attempts to date the artifacts along the Columbia River were not successful as the sites had been disturbed by fluctuating levels of the river. Since 1950, at least five sites in the Columbia Plateau have been excavated and found to be sufficiently undisturbed to allow correlation of finds at these sites.

This scientific information was given to the author of, "Guide to Aid in Identifying Certain Columbia Plateau Projectile Points," by David G. Rice, ~~Laboratory of Anthropology, Washington State University, Pullman Washington~~. In the publication, there are three types of contracting stemmed points illustrated. Illustrations 1 and 2 show the stem tapering, but still squared-off to a flat but narrow based. The stems are usually quite short in comparison to the overall length of the artifact. The material is chert, jasper and agate can be included. Type 1 and also type 2 are both very similar in form and style to the MU-9 site projectile points of the large type. The age is given as from 2,000 – 4,000 years old.

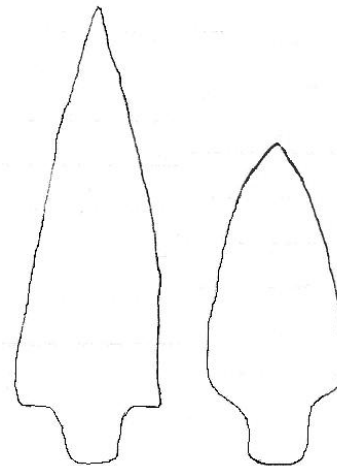


FIGURE 6
Hoffarber Sketch

The total number of point types which were excavated from the MU-9 site were submitted to Mr. George Phebus of the Smithsonian Institution for his analysis.

The following observations are his personal opinion:

Certain types have known or established date ranges and therefore, a particular assemblage of points can be compared and a rough time range assigned. I would say that much of the dating for Columbia Plateau point is also good down the Columbia River. Certain plateau types occur at Seaside [Oregon] and I would say the time period is roughly the same based on related C-14 dates. The Merrybell site exhibits traits which suggest that period when the bow and arrow probably was being introduced, c. AD 500 or slightly earlier.

Accordingly, he says that a date from levels 2-3 would be about that time and those above, somewhat later and levels below, apparently earlier. If one was to say that Merrybell was occupied by 0 AD or 2,000 B.P., I would think it accurate. [Note: Merrybell Phase (600 BC- AD 200) (Pettigrew 1977:323)]

C-14 Dating

The following observations were made by Mr. Leon Taber and I in regards to the MU-9 site, not as a pretense towards professionalism by amateurs, but in recognition of the fact that C-14 dating is not infallible. It is an expensive process, but the results are worth the cost if various forms of interferences to its accuracy is not present. When a single date is given to a site, it may only indicate the earliest or more recent occupation. Also it is possible that the date is incorrect since only 2 of 3 dates are accurate. The following forms of interferences for dating of MU-9 were noted:

1. Sour Dock roots, which extended to the subsoil.
2. Oak [Tree] roots.
3. Rodent holes throughout [the] entire grid area, which were noted in the wall sections of the excavated area. These holes were caused by three types of rodents, mice, moles and shrews.
4. Grass roots.

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OAS AND MERRYBELL 1958

Documented participants included:

Leon Taber, Philip Olsen, J. Harris, Howard Galbraith

Marrybelle Dig Soon To End (September 1958)

Due to the fact that the manager of the Marrybelle dairy farm wants to place the area being dug under cultivation that site will soon be lost to us. However, we have been tentatively promised another, and probably, richer part of this old camp for a digging site for next year.

The trenches excavated during the summer will be backfilled with a bulldozer and notice of the end of the dig will be automatic—when the dozer starts, we stop.

Digging in general was rather poor, and a tally of returns from 88 records turned in, show the following:

Arrow Points _____	109
Scrapers _____	40
Drills _____	10
Knives _____	3
Sinkers _____	1
Pestles _____	3
Bowls _____	1
Shaft Smoothers _____	2

Philip Olsen has been working faithfully in the excavations, digging narrow trenches to a depth of two feet below the deepest signs of habitation and taking the stratigraphy from there to the surface. This method is showing interesting results in the matter of house pits, which show quite plainly in the trench sides.

*[Screenings, Vol. 7, No. 9
September 1958, O.A.S Portland]*

Merrybell Site

The Merrybell Site (MU-9) takes its name from “Merrybell Farms,” on Reeder Road near the geographic landmass center of Sauvie Island. In earliest historic and prehistoric times, before there were dikes or mechanical drainage, there were several sloughs running north and south within the island. They formed a river drainage connection with lakes in the interior.

... On another slough, to the west, at the edge of a shallow lake, one mile south of Sturgeon Lake [Note: it was known as the Little Sturgeon Lake before being drained], was the seasonal camp and perhaps permanent village of some importance, not however mentioned in history. At a slight raise of ground near a few large old oaks sometimes called the “Council Oaks,” a rich campsite was evident. Children and hobbyists found arrowheads where the ground had been washed following plowing by rain or flood. The place adjacent to the buildings of Merrybell Farms, originally a dairy.

*[Wappato Indians, Roy F. Jones,
1972, Privately Printed]*

OAS AND MERRYBELL 1967

The following information was compiled and relates to the 1967 O.A.S. dig conducted at the Merrybell Farm Site 35MU9.

Documented participants included:

B. Hogan, Bill Stoltenow, Bob Burns, Bob Kirk, Bud Barron, C. Carlsen, C. M. Jordan, C. Prier, C. R. Burns, Chuck Paynter, D. Jolly, D. McCormick, Don Rose, Donald Person, E. Devlin, Ed Roddy, F. Janulewicz, G. Rubenhoff, Gene Talkington, H. Dick, H. Greening, Herb Wooten, Jack Baker, John Roberts, Ken Matsen, Leon Taber, M. Gaul, M. Wilson, Norm Dally, Norm. Calvin, R. Benski, Ray Anderson, Ray Burhmaster, Ray Hoffarber, Robert Slocum, Si Allen, T. Meyers, Tom Whitaker, Terry Mowry, W. Townes, Walt O'Donnell and Walter Mullens

The Merrybelle Site (May 1967)

The Merrybell Site, situated on the Merrybelle Farm on Reeder Road on Sauvie Island is

singularly designated MU 9. MU means Multnomah County, 9 being the number of the site in incidence of discovery. Complete designation would amount to 35 MU 9, 35 meaning Oregon being the 35th state in alphabetical order. Adding the square and level number to the above would pinpoint an artifact recovered from this site for marking and cataloging.

The site is being readied for opening for excavation on June 10. It was originally worked by OAS in 1958. As can best be determined this was not a village, but a temporary camp used for perhaps hundreds of years as a fishing and hunting camp. It was situated on a deep, narrow slough, only recently filled in, which provided excellent netting of fish (part of the campsite was used as fill material) and was near much-used game trails which could account for the many “deer points” found in the area. After extensive reappraisal of original records and maps, Dr. Derek Cornforth has completed what is considered a reasonably accurate plot of the area in relation to what has or has not been dug.



FIGURE 7
1967 O.A.S. dig at the Merrybell Site 35MU9, Location: “Council Oaks”

There will be overlaps and discrepancies – this cannot be helped, but judging from past records it promises to be an interesting dig.

[Thomas Whitaker, Screenings, Vol. 16, No. 5, May 1967, O.A.S. Portland]

Merrybelle Site Excavations (June 1967)

Preparations are well in hand for the opening of the Merrybelle Site on June 10. Instructions for getting to the site on Sauvie Island are being issued with *[Information Withheld]*. Some of the rules have been changed this year and anyone planning to come to the site this summer is urged to read them beforehand. Some of the more important rules are:

1. All members will be required to attend a field workshop on the first two attendances at the site. These sessions are intended to orient members on the layout of the site, methods of classification and other recording of data. A new system of classification of chipped artifacts is to be introduced this year and the profile card is also being revised...
2. Parking will be in the leased field. Please do not park vehicles on the verge of the county highway or on the paved entrance road to Merrybelle Farm... Do not surface hunt or otherwise trespass on the adjacent property which does not belong to the owner of our site as is not covered by our lease...
3. Be sure to have the correct tools and equipment for excavation, including a square-ended shovel, a wheelbarrow, a screen and a meter rule.

New members will be assigned squares adjoining those selected, more experienced members. New members are expected to ask for all the advice they need as a situation arises, and should not wait until the end of the day before seeking advice.

The site may contain trade goods, and other items relating to the history of the site since its occupation as an Indian campsite. These artifacts

should also be retained for classification. The campsite midden is expected to be about 3 feet deep on average. Previous excavation at the site indicates that the chipped artifacts are generally larger than those usually encountered in the Portland area. A few areas of the site have been previously trenched or potholed.

Every effort is being made to locate these areas and avoid them in the current excavations but it is inevitable that a few squares will contain sterile tailings, at least near the surface. There will probably be sterile squares in the undisturbed midden, so it's all part of luck.

[Derek Cornforth, Screenings, Vol. 16, No. 6, June 1967, O.A.S. Portland]

Merrybelle Site (July 1967)

About 50 members participated in the opening day of excavation, Saturday, June 10; almost the same number took part on Sunday. Two workshop sessions were held each day to provide orientation to the site, field methods of be followed and specific procedures for this excavation. The response of the members to the workshops was very good and there was a spirit of cooperation and responsibility. The workshops will continue each dig day in the beginning weeks of the excavation to help all those who expect to dig at Merrybelle this year...

Trenches were opened on the north and south sides of the site. The "clay" was encountered at about 120 centimeter depth. Artifacts recovered during the opening weekend were interesting and almost everyone found something. Among the artifacts were:

1. Rather large points
2. A perforated silver coin
3. A stone bowl
4. Scrapers
5. Possible atlatl weight

[Dig Committee, Screenings, Vol. 16, No. 7, July 1967, O.A.S. Portland]

Merrybelle Site (August 1967)

As of this date, July 25, 1967, about 150 squares have been dug at Merrybelle. It was decided soon after the dig opened to set an arbitrary depth of four levels or 120 cm in order to keep the floor level. This has been difficult as clay has been encountered at shallow depths in some areas, in which case practice has been to contour off, going to four feet only where pits are evident.

The site is being dug from two opposite ends and there are clay ridges at both North and south ends that may indicate a house, as a few post holes were encountered. Also, some evidence indicating plank lines was exposed, but was too hard to isolate because of intrusion of wood residue from the farmstead occupation. The clay ridges may prove to be alluvial as the site was situated between a slough and a lake, both subject to annual flooding.

A confusion of occupational evidence occurs for pioneers also built their homes upon the site. Excavation is further encumbered by the existence of two full site-length pipes. One is a four inch soil pipe running N. and S., and the other is a six inch water line running from S.W. to E., N.E.

The walls show little or no stratification and no shell layers have been encountered. No bone work has been recovered. The site was partially dug by OAS in 1958 and it has been pot-holed to some extent and these factors, plus those noted above may make it difficult to report. A better story may unfold when the bottom is dug out; a chore which will be done little by little as the dig progresses. Some good finds have been made in the bottom of the fourth level, so diggers should not look upon this task with disdain---besides, it has to be done.

Recovery has been average in quality, but different. Points have been larger and more eccentric, bowls have been paint pots size—some bordering on the unusual and a number of artifacts totally unclassifiable and, so far, baffling as to use, have come out of the screens. One surprising and sure to be a dominant factor in the ultimate identification of the site is the omnipresence of atlatl weights. Never has a site west of The Dalles been so exciting in the recovery of a single artifact.

No attempt can yet be made to explain the recovery of at least two dozen of them from less than a third of the site. Their ubiquity here presents a challenge to students of lower Columbia River archaeology.

Member participation has been good and cooperation excellent. We believe the new data card system will provide much better records to report on. A new and more comprehensive classification system is being compiled. There is a full season's digging at Merrybelle and a lot of work, necessary recording and a certain amount of mechanical work is completed, but we anticipate no problems along this line.

A section of the site was reserved for Dr. Tom Newman and his students, and every week there is welcome evidence of their having been there during the week. We look forward to his final report on his work. We are fortunate in having his participation. His cooperation and moral support are appreciated. We must strive continually to upgrade our attitudes and methods as the only clear path to the future of OAS.

The site is dominated and sometimes shaded by 400 to 500 year old oaks. The "Council Oaks" they are called.

[Chuck Paynter, Screenings, Vol. 16, No. 8, August 1967, O.A.S. Portland]

Merrybell Site Report (September 1967)

...At this writing it appears that our lease cannot be renewed. The owner of the property so indicates. This site is an important one and should have high priority from completion.

Excavating of full squares was stopped at Row 32 on the north side of the site and the Fifth level of this area is now being dug. This area of the pits. It is an interesting phase of the excavation. Artifact recovery has been fair to good; many fine artifacts have been recovered. Two by twelve planks have been in use as a ramp, making the disposal of tailings relatively easy.

[Dig Committee, Screenings, Vol. 16, No. 9, September 1967, O.A.S. Portland]

Carbon 14 Dating of Merrybell (March 1968)

On September 3, 1967, Ken Matsen, excavating square U24 came upon a small fire pit which contained, to his immediate knowledge, a suitable amount of prime charcoal for dating purposes. He called my attention to it, and together we obtained an adequate amount which was transferred by trowel into a sterile glass jar and sealed.

On December 8 the same sample was wrapped in several layers of aluminum foil and sent to the Washington State University Laboratory for processing. The detailed forms, properly completed, must accompany such a submission, and we are grateful to Dr. Tom Newman of Portland State College for his assistance in handling the chore. It was necessary to pinpoint the location of the site to the quarter of the quarter of the quarter of section number...

On January 13 results of the test were received, and the sample was found to be 1165 ± 350 years old. This means that the site at that level was probably occupied between 700 and 800 A.D. The sample was taken from this particular depth because it was in a relative strata contingent with the greatest recovery of artifacts. It was also made reasonably certain that there was no intrusion of tree roots in the immediate area...

...This is the first C14 dating done on a Sauvie Island site, and it should provide impetus to gather more and more information. We hope we can get a second chance at Merrybell and, perhaps, obtain a good sample at a greater depth to determine, hopefully, a greater age.

[Chuck Paynter, Vol. 17, No. 3, March 1968, O.A.S. Portland]

TABLE 4
1967 - ^{14}C DATE

Unit: _____ U-24
Depth: _____ 140 cm
 ^{14}C : _____ 1165 ± 350
Occupation: _____ 700 and 800 A.D.

[Note: Sample depth was obtained in stratum 1. See Pettigrew, 1973]

OAS AND MERRYBELL 1971

The following information was compiled and relates to the 1971 O.A.S. dig conducted at the Merrybell Farm Site 35MU9.

Documented participants included:

Bill Castelman, Carl Prier, Chuck Paynter, Dan Mroz, Dave Lenhart, Don Rose, Fred Weiler, George Warner, Herb Beals, Herb Wooten, Howard Hamlin, Jan Sperling, Judy Lenhart, Lios Morz, Martin Mulligan, Mel Sperling, Sam Smouse, Sherron Weiler, Sherry Castelman, Si Allen, Ted Marcisz, Thelma Smouse and Will Townes

Merrybell Revisited (1971)

...Some of the projectile points recovered were also of a particular interest in that they are of larger and thicker dimensions than generally typify arrow points. Whether they are indeed spear or dart points used on atlatls is conjecture. Possibly the data on such points recovered from both the 1967 and 1970 excavations can add further information on this question.

Another prominent feature of artifact recovery at the 1967 Merrybell excavation was the large number of stone bowls and mortars. While similar to many found along the middle and lower Columbia River areas, Merrybell types are generally more simple, - ground or pecked into overall shape and not carved or incised in decorative pattern on the outer wall, as were many found, for example, along the Long Narrows.

The Carbon-14 dating of a charcoal sample from Merrybell 1967 excavation revealed an age of 1165 ± 350 years, indicating that the site, at 140 cm depth from which the sample was extracted, was occupied between 700 and 800 A.D. Another Carbon-14 dating will be obtained from the area this summer.

[Erna Mader, Vol. 20, No. 5, May 1971, O.A.S. Portland]

Dig Notes (1971)

The Merrybell dig opens Saturday, June 12 at 9:00 AM.

[Dig Committee, Screenings, Vol. 20, No. 6, June 1971, O.A.S. Portland]

Merrybell -1971

...A portion of the site, comprising part of the S.E. quadrant of the dig area, has gone to depths of 8 and 9 feet. Needless to say, the bottoms of these were soggy and hard to screen. It was from one of these depths that a charcoal sample was recovered and sent away for C 14 analysis.

...Recovery was very good – in fact excellent in the overall picture. Dig methods and procedure have been greatly improved due to increased experience, better surveillance and the invaluable benefits of the Field Methods Workshop.

...It is doubtful that digging will continue much past the Labor Day Holiday as squares are now being rationed on some days as working area decreases. Anyone planning to dig after this date should make prior inquiry.

An unexpected development just before press time adds a dramatic touch to the near conclusion of the Merrybell dig and confirms the beliefs as to the age of the site as predicted. The results of the analysis of the sample aforementioned are as follows:

TABLE 5
1971 - ¹⁴C DATE

Unit: _____	V-12-6'
Depth: _____	189 cm
¹⁴ C: _____	2035 ±95
Occupation: _____	85 B.C.

This is probably the oldest date obtained for any site so far in the lower Columbia River area and certainly a credit to the efforts of OAS to obtain more comprehensive knowledge of Sauvie Island. Our work at Merrybell in 1967 and particularly in 1971 should add impetus to the professional

archaeologists and geologists in their search for better answers to the story of the Island's formation and occupation.

[Chuck Paynter, Vol. 20, No. 9, September 1971, O.A.S. Portland]

Famed Center of Indian Culture **Revelations of the Merrybell Site**

The Merrybell Site is located on Reeder Road, in the east central part of Sauvie Island. The ground being worked was leased from the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gary J. Whyte, on a yearly basis. Work progressed there principally during 1967 and 1971. It has proved to be the most interesting site investigated by the society. Both the Carbon-14 tests and the artifact recovery mark it as indicating the greatest age of occupation yet found in Wappato Valley.

The site has no history for it was not mentioned by Lewis and Clark. Its location was logical. There was a north-south slough which reached the site from the Willamette. This ended in a pond on the banks of which the Indians lived. There were perhaps some oak trees on the raised ground as there is today. The earliest white settlers referred to this place as the Council Oaks. Many artifacts have been found on the surface for some erosion has taken place. It is only three miles from the famous old historical site called Multnomah Village.

Famed Center of Indian Culture **The Atlatl**

... In 1967 there were a total of 43 atlatl weights recovered. Each prized stone may have been used by several generations of ancient peoples. In 1971 the total will likely exceed that of 1967. We have a site here which tells us that the large lake formed in Wappato Valley following the last ice age had found drainage enough to make Sauvie Island habitable before the Christian era began. This is a definite step in the direction of solving the riddle as to when man first occupied Wappato Valley and something that the Lewis and Clark party would like to have known

[Roy F. Jones, Vol. 21, No. 11&12, November/December 1972, O.A.S. Portland]

TABLE 6
KNOWN ¹⁴C DATES

	Unit	Stratum	Depth	¹⁴ C	Occupation
OAS 1967	U-24-4'	1	140 cm	1165 ±350 BP	AD 700 - 800
OAS 1971	V-12-6'	1	189 cm	2035 ±95 BP	85 BC
Pettigrew 1973	Unit B, Level 4	1	< 200 cm	807 ±70 BP	AD 1080
Pettigrew 1973	Unit B, Level 7	1	< 200 cm	2070 ±70 BP	120 BC
Pettigrew 1973	Unit B, Level 10	1	< 200 cm	850 ±90 BP	AD 1100
Pettigrew 1973	Unit C, Level 14	4	> 249-255 cm	2850 ±85 BP	900 BC
Pettigrew 1973	Unit C, Level 15	4	> 249-255 cm	2850 ±95 BP	900 BC
Pettigrew 1973	Unit C, Level 16	4	> 249-255 cm	2880 ±155 BP	930 BC

Richard M. Pettigrew 1973

Richard Pettigrew directed limited excavations at the Merrybell site in 1973 in support of dissertation, "A Prehistoric Culture Sequence in the Portland Basin of the Lower Columbia Valley." His excavation was limited to three, 2 meter square, units. During the excavation, four distinct strata were identified and six samples for Carbon-14 testing were obtained.

Pettigrew discounted the Level 4 and Level 10 dates as being contaminated.

"...When the cultural debris from stratum 1 is compared to other sites in

the vicinity, however, the decision can be made with some certainty without further radiocarbon dates from site 35MU9, because it becomes clear that the material from stratum 1 is distinctly different stylistically from comparable cultural debris from other components dated near AD 1100. The material from stratum 1 at site 35MU9 appears on stylistic grounds to predate all other excavated sites, in fact; therefore, the Level 4 and Level 10 dates are discounted as contaminated."
(Pettigrew, 1981, Pg.79)

Pettigrew, Richard M.

1981 A Prehistoric Culture Sequence in the Portland Basin of the Lower Columbia Valley, University of Oregon Anthropological Papers, No. 22, 1981

PLATE 1
Stone Paint Pot Mortars – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Mystery Stone object found by Ray Burhmaster, 13 cm by 5 cm.

Two views of the same artifact, probably the most unusual to come out of the site. One side appears to be a symmetrical, very well made mortar, while the other has a protuberance with a hole drilled through it as if it was made to be hung by a cord. This interesting piece was excavated by Ray Burhmaster. Diameter is 13 centimeters... Ken Matsen (Screenings, Vol. 17, No. 5, 1968)



Pumice Paint Pot (5.7 cm diameter)
Unit: K-21-5'
Found by Ray Hoffarber
Date: 1967



Paint Pot (12.2 cm diameter)
Unit: P-25-5'
Found by Robert Slocum
Date: 1967

PLATE 2
Stone Paint Pot Mortars – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Pumice Paint Pot (11.4 cm diameter)
Unit: S-22-4'
Found by Ken Matsen
Date: 1967



Pumice Paint Pot (9 cm diameter)
Unit: S-22-5'
Found by Robert Slocum
Date: 1967



Pumice Paint Pot (7.8 cm diameter)
Unit: U-23-4'
Found by M. Gaul
Date: 1967

PLATE 3
Atlatl Weights – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



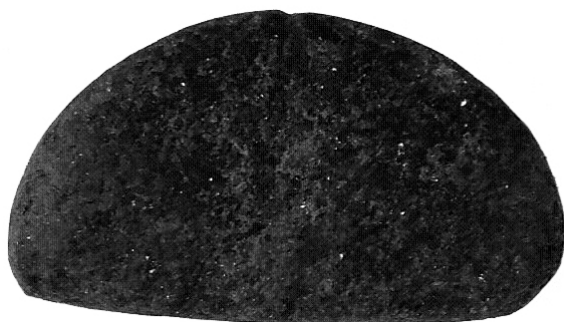
Atlatl Weight
Unit: G-21-3'
Found by E. Devlin
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight
Unit: G-21-4'
Found by E. Devlin
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight
Unit: H-34-3'
Found by E. Devlin
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight
Unit: H-34-4'
Found by E. Devlin
Date: 1967

PLATE 4
Atlatl Weights – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Atlatl Weight (6.8 cm)
Unit: J-33-4'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967 - Found with atlatl weights
shown in Figs. 14, 15, 16



Atlatl Weight
Unit: J-33-4'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967 - Found with atlatl weights
shown in Figs. 13, 15, 16



Atlatl Weight
Unit: J-33-4'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967 - Found with atlatl weights
shown in Figs. 13, 14, 16



Atlatl Weight (7.4 cm)
Unit: J-33-4'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967 - Found with atlatl weights shown
in Figs. 13, 14, 15

PLATE 5
Atlatl Weights – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Atlatl Weight
Unit: J-36-6'
Found by Ray Hoffarber
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight (6.8 cm)
Unit: L-34-3'
Found by Ray Hoffarber
Date: 1967

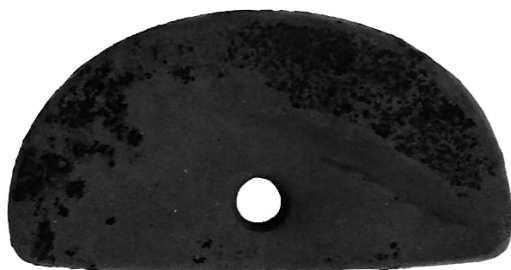


Atlatl Weight (5.2 cm)
Unit: M-21-3'
Found by C. R. Burns
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight
Unit: M-23-3'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967

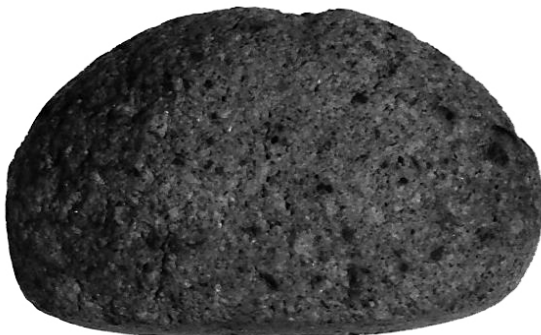
PLATE 6
Atlatl Weights – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Atlatl Weight (6.9 cm)
Unit: Unknown
Found by Walter Mullens
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight (6.5 cm)
Unit: N-25-3'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967

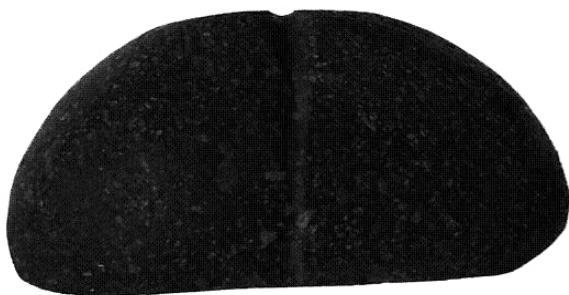


Atlatl Weight
Unit: N-34-4'
Found by B. Hogan
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight (5.2 cm)
Unit: M-21-3'
Found by C.R. Burns
Date: 1967

PLATE 7
Atlatl Weights – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Atlatl Weight (7.5 cm)
Unit: O-21-4'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight
Unit: Q-34-3'
Found by C.R. Burns
Date: 1967

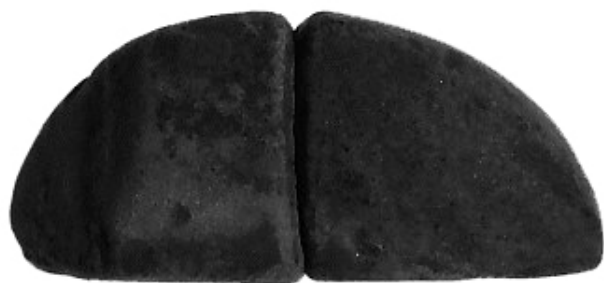


Atlatl Weight
Unit: O-22-2'
Found by Ray Burhmaster
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight
Unit: O-37-5'
Found by Don McCormick
Date: 1967

PLATE 8
Atlatl Weights – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Atlatl Weight (7.7 cm)
Unit: Not Recorded
Found by E. Devlin
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight (6.1 cm)
Unit: N-35-5'
Found by M. Gaul
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight
Unit: Not Recorded
Found by M. Gaul
Date: 1967



Atlatl Weight
Unit: R-36-4'
Found by B. Kirk
Date: 1967

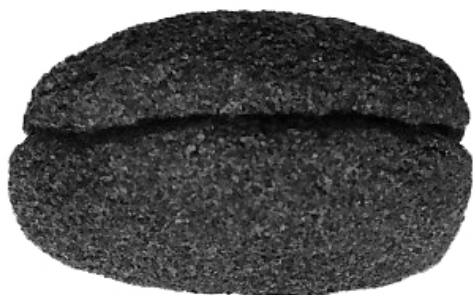
PLATE 9
Miscellaneous Stone – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Griddled Stone (Bolo Wt?)
Unit: U-22-4'
Found by R. Benski
Date: 1967



Celt (Adze Blade - Jade)
Unit: J-26'4
Found by Ray Hoffarber
Date: 1967



Abrader (3.8 cm)
Unit: I-35-5'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967



Abrader
Unit: Tailings
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967

PLATE 10
Sinkers – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Sinker (Net Weight) (12 cm)
Unit: E-37-3'
Found by Robert Slocum
Date: 1967



Sinker (Net Weight) (12.5 cm)
Unit: F-37-4'
Found by Robert Slocum
Date: 1967



Notched Sinker (Net Weight)
Unit: U-22-4'
Found by R. Benski
Date: 1967



Sinker (Net Weight) (4.6 cm)
Unit: U-22-1'
Found by F. Janulewicz
Date: 1967



Sinker (Net Weight)
Unit: U-34-4'
Found by M. Gaul
Date: 1967

PLATE 11
Wrapped Sinkers – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



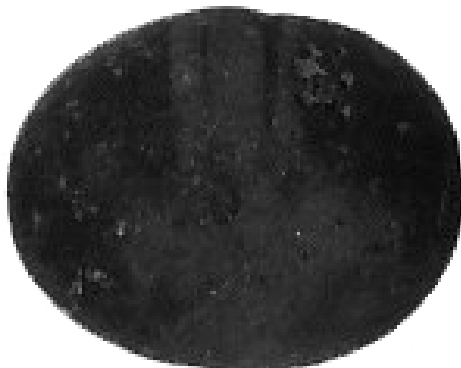
Wrapped Sinker (Net Weight)
Unit: S-20-4'
Found by N. Calvin
Date: 1967



Wrapped Sinker (Net Weight)
Unit: S-20-4'
Found by N. Calvin
Date: 1967



Wrapped Sinker (Net Weight)
Unit: S-20-4'
Found by N. Calvin
Date: 1967



Wrapped Sinker (Net Weight)
Unit: S-20-4'
Found by N. Calvin
Date: 1967

PLATE 12
River Cobbles – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)

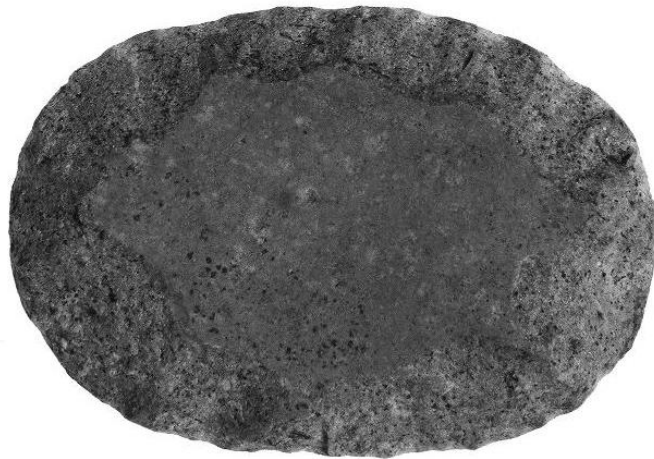


Cache of River Pebbles – Total Count 57
Unit: S-20-4'
Found by N. Calvin
Date: 1967

PLATE 13
Cobble Choppers – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Perforated Cobble Chopper
Unit: S-22-3'
Found by Ken Matsen
Date: 1967



Cobble Chopper
Unit: S-21-3'
Found by Ray Hoffarber
Date: 1967



Cobble Chopper
Unit: Salvage
Found by C. Paynter
Date: 1967
Length: 8.7 cm

PLATE 14
Mauls – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Maul
Unit: O-22-4'
Found by Walt O'Donnell
Date: June 18, 1967
Length: 20 cm

Maul
Unit: S-36-4'
Found by C.R. Burns
Date: 1967
Length: 13.7 cm

PLATE 15
Mauls – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Pestle
Unit: T-24-4'
Found by T. Whitaker
Date: 1967
Length: 9.5 cm



Pestle
Unit: G-22-4'
Found by D. Person
Date: 1967
Length: 12 cm



Pestle or Maul
Unit: F-34-3'
Found by Ray Hoffarber
Date: 1967
Length: 10.5 cm

PLATE 16

Level 1 Projectiles and Other – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Unit: E-34-1'

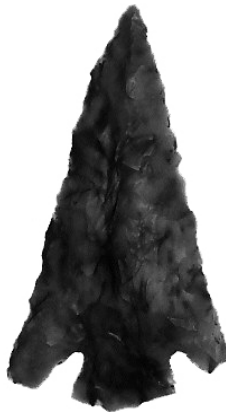


Unit: M-33-1'



Unit: U-34-1'

Level 2 Projectiles and Other – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



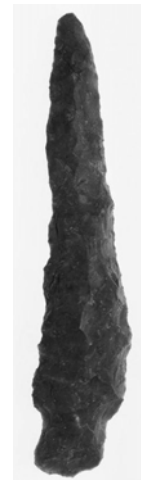
Unit: J-36-2'



Unit: R-25-2'



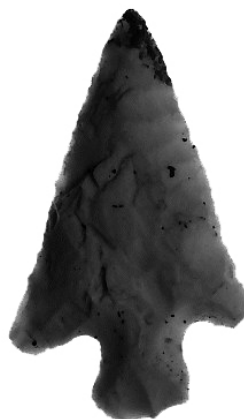
Unit: N-24-2'



Unit: V-35-2'



Unit: K-21-2'



Unit: S-22-2'



Unit: P-8-2'



Unit: V-35-2'

PLATE 17
Level 3 Projectiles and Other – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Unit: I-21-3'



Unit: N-25-3'



Unit: T-35-3'



Unit: S-26-3'



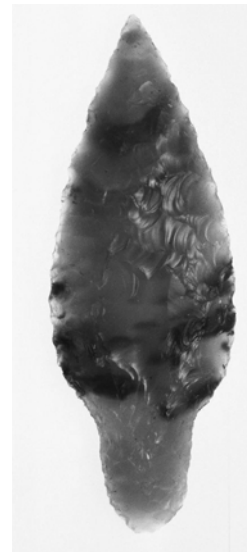
Unit: P-22-3'



Unit: Q-33-3'



Unit: H-36-3'



Unit: Q-26-3'

PLATE 18
Level 4 Projectiles and Other – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Unit: U-22-4'



Unit: I-21-4'



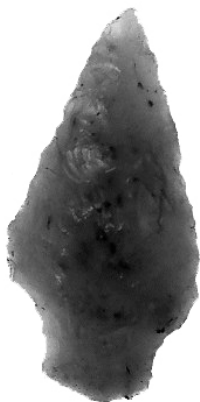
Unit: J-37-4'



Unit: L-36-4'



Unit: T-25-4'



Unit: V-35-4'



Unit: T-24-4'



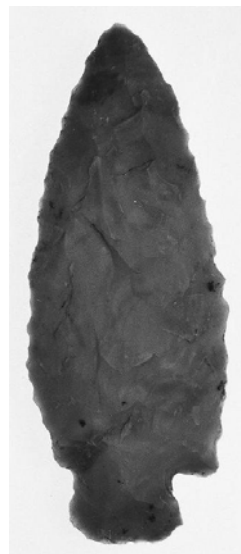
Unit: O-34-4'



Unit: F-23-4'



Unit: S-26-4'



Unit: O-21-4'

PLATE 19
Level 5 Projectiles and Other – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Unit: S-23-5'



Unit: M-25-5'



Unit: M-25-5'



Unit: M-34-5'



Unit: T-22-5'



Unit: T-24-5'



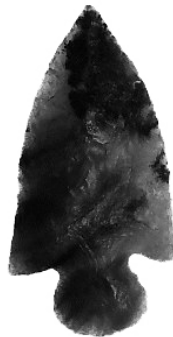
Unit: H-23-5'



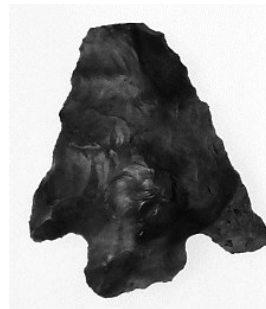
Unit: T-37-5'



Unit: T-37-5'



Unit: R-34-5'



Unit: T-26-5'



Unit: M-23-5'



Unit: P-34-5'

PLATE 20
Cache of Lithic Material – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Cache of Flakes – Total Count 296
Unit: S-22-4'
Found by Ken Matsen
Date: 1967
Recovered in a 10" sq. area, 21 pieces showed signs of being worked.

PLATE 21
Knives – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



Unit: P-34-5'
Found by W. Townes
Date: 1967



Unit: I-35-1'
Found by T. Mowry
Date: 1967



Obsidian
Unit: U-22-4'
Found by R. Benski
Date: 1967



Unit: P-21-1'
Found by C. Prier
Date: 1967

PLATE 22
Clay Paint Pot – Recovered During the 1967 OAS Merrybell Dig (35MU9)



The only clay artifact to come out of last year's dig at the Merrybell site was this tiny clay pot, excavated by Evelyn Roddy from the four foot level.

Actual diameter is 1.7 centimeters, or about the size of an ordinary thimble.

... Ken Matsen
[Vol. 17, No. 8, September 1968, O.A.S. Portland]

ABOUT RAY HOFFARBER

(1937 to 1998)

Tigard, Oregon

BY: JOHN COCKRELL

Ray began his collection at age 17 when he started participating in the Oregon Archaeological Society's sanctioned digs. He continued throughout his lifetime amassing a large collection of Columbia River artifacts. A large part of his collection was made from finds in the high desert region of south central Oregon. Ray searched the dry lake beds, rock shelters and small caves in Lake, Harney and Malheur counties in Oregon for many years and amassed an outstanding collection including several fine Paleo Period artifacts.

His outstanding collection of bone and horn (perishable) artifacts were found mainly at sites located on Lake River in Clark County, Washington and sites located on Sauvie Island, Columbia and Multnomah counties, Oregon. Perhaps the only large cache of camas root digger stick handles of horn ever found were discovered in square V-51 at CL4, Herzog Site by Ray in 1965.



FIGURE 8

Cache of Root Digger Handles, Herzog 1965

Another unique artifact Ray found is a bone carving of a human face as shown in Emory Strong's report on the Powell Site located on the property of Pope & Talbot in southern St. Helens, Oregon. The photo on page 155 of Wappato Indians by Roy F. Jones shows this unique bone carving of a human. The headdress and well

defined teeth make this an unusual specimen. A truly outstanding piece of Stone Age art from the Columbia River. Other photos of items that are pictured in Strong's report include a decorated bone knife, decorated clay pipe, perforated sinkers, polished pestle and many fine arrowheads that Ray found at the Powell Site. Also recovered as pictured on page 156 are carved stone bangles that Ray found.



FIGURE 9

Decorated Clay Pipe, Powell Site

Ray and other members of OAS excavated the Cholick Site, CO-9 (Cath-la-min-na-min), located on the west side of Sauvie Island; adjacent to the Multnomah Channel in the summer of 1968. Kenneth Matsen's report on the dig, as published in Roy F. Jones book, shows photos on page 184 of a stone pipe found at the 4' level of square A-16 and a shaft smoother found by Ray.

A small salvage type dig was accomplished at Felida Moorage in the summers of 1967-68 by Everett Devlin of Stevenson WA, Leon Taber of Sauvie Island OR and Ray Hoffarber; and was reported by Ray in Screenings in September and October 1969. The Felida photos by Emory Strong show some of Ray's points found at the site on page 215 of Roy F. Jones book. As part of the agreement with the property owner some of the artifacts were presented as a permanent record to the Clark County Museum at Vancouver. This assembly, a gift from Taber, Devlin and Hoffarber, contained some carved stone, clay and bone artifacts; and a group of 266 complete arrowheads.

Among the most interesting artifacts recovered at the Herzog Site and other Shoto Village sites on Lake River are the fired clay pieces. Ken Matsen and Bob Slocum reported this clay tradition in Shoto Clay, published by the society, No. 4, 1968

using many photographs including Hoffarber's finds.

The Merrybell Farm Site, 35MU9, located near the geographic center of Sauvie Island was dug during the summers of 1967-71. Two OAS sanctioned digs were dug during this period and one private dig was accomplished. The first digs were in 1958-59 and it was determined that it was an ancient site, one of the oldest below the Dalles. It was learned that the most unique artifacts recovered were the atlatl weights from the site over the years and represents the largest assemblage from one site below the Dalles region. Ray observed that the deeper the level the more crude the workmanship the weights became.

Ray and a few armatures had dug at the Cashdollar Site on Sauvie Island for many years, down to 13 feet and found many old type points below the 9' level. This private property lease site may be the oldest known ancient site yet discovered below the Dalles. It is the deepest inhabited site on the island and like Merrybell, contained several atlatl weights. Many older lanceolate type points were recovered in the lowest levels. All artifacts were identified as to level and square. Ray worked this site up until his death spending many hours screening the past 15 years at this site.

An inventory of the frame labels and site identification was taken to prepare the following list of the various sites from which Hoffarber's collection was made:

TABLE 7
SITES REPRESENTED BY
THE HOFFARBER COLLECTION

OREGON LOCATIONS	WASHINGTON LOCATIONS
Bull Mountain	China Bar
Cascade Locks	Clah-Clel-Lah, 45SK6
Cashdollar Site	Congdon
Catlo Rimrock Cave	Felida Moorage
Cholick Site	Hanford Island
Columbia Slough	Herzog Site
Crump Lake	Horsethief
Decker Site	Lady Island
Drowned Village	Lake River
Deschutes River	Miller Island
Five Mile Lock	Priest Rapids
Fort Rock	Rock Creek, Fountain Bar
Harry Peter Ranch,	Round House Site
Taulatin	Sand Island
Hood River	Obie Site
Hart Lake	Satus Creek
John Day Bar	Topnish Creek
John Day Falls	Wake Map Mound
John Day Rapids	Wishram Site
Juntura, Mulheur Co.	
Merrybell Farm	
Murphy Island	
Oak Island, Sauvie Is.	
Palmer Site, Seaside	
Powell Site	
Pump House Site	
Quinton	
Silver Lake, Lake Co.	
Smith Lake	
St. Johns	
Sturgeon Lake, Sauvie Is.	
Summer Lake, Lake Co.	
Swamp Lake, Lake Co.	
Sycan Marsh, Lake co.	
Trojan Site	
Towell Site	
Umatilla	
Warrior Rock	
